

Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett, we have always looked to those who risked themselves for a greater purpose. Some of our heroes left their mark with a flourish, and some carried out their role with only silent dignity, yet we have always respected them with our gratitude and our honor.

The Combat Infantryman's Badge is a simple piece of cloth; a musket bordered by a wreath on a pale blue background. But the risk, sacrifice, and indeed, heroism that it represents is real.

To these forty-three brave American soldiers, we owe a great debt. Decades may have passed since that November morning they stood tall and protected us, but the memory shall not fade. History will never forget their courage.

GETTING OUR GIRLS READY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT (GO GIRL!)

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, what's wrong with this picture? Females make up slightly more than 50 percent of this country's population, yet, less than 30 percent of America's scientists are women. Even fewer engineers are women—less than 10 percent!

In 1994 there were 209 tenured faculty at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology—and 15 of them were women!

Of course, these figures aren't surprising when you learn that in 1985 women earned less than thirty percent of the bachelor degrees in the physical sciences, and, less than ten percent of the bachelor degrees in engineering.

You don't even want to hear the percentage of PhD's in science and math-based fields that are earned by women. Just to give you an example, about eight percent of the PhDs in physics in 1988 were awarded to women.

My colleagues may be asking themselves, "So what . . . is this some national problem?"

Yes—this is a big problem. A big problem for employers; a big problem for women as future wage earners; and a big problem for our nation as we compete in the global marketplace.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that between 1994 and 2005, the number of women in the labor force will be growing twice as quickly as men.

A recent study of school-to-work projects found ninety percent of the girls clustered in five traditionally female occupations. My colleagues do not need me to tell them that careers in traditionally female occupations pay far less than careers in science, math, and technology. For example, a data analyst can expect to make \$45,000 a year while a licensed practical nurse makes less than \$25,000 a year. And a kindergarten teacher makes only \$18,044 a year.

In addition, the National Science Foundation reports that the jobs facing workers will require higher skill levels in science, math, and technology than ever before.

The NSF report is verified by a letter I recently received from the American Electronics Association. They wrote to tell me that today the hi-tech industry is facing a critical shortage of skilled workers. And, the future looks even worse. A recent AEA report showed that the number of degrees in computer science, engineering, mathematics and physics have actually declined since 1990.

Quite clearly, there is no way that America can have a technically competent workforce if the majority of students—females—continue not to study science, math and technology.

That is why today I am introducing a bill to help school districts encourage girls to pursue careers in science, math, and technology.

Although my bill is formally titled "Getting Our Girls Ready for the 21st Century Act" it will be known as "Go Girl!"

"Go Girl" will create a bold new workforce of energized young women in science, math and technology.

"Go Girl" is modeled on the Trio program, which has successfully encouraged two million low income students, whose parents never attended college, to attend and graduate from college. Similarly, the lack of female role models hamper female interest in studying science, math, and technology.

Girls, and their parents, first, must be able to envision a career in these fields for themselves and their daughters. Then, they need practical advice on what to study and how to achieve the necessary academic requirements.

"Go Girl" follows girls from the fourth grade, the grade in which girls typically begin to fall behind boys in math and science, through high school.

To encourage girls' interest in math, science and technology in the early grades, girls will participate in events and activities that increase their awareness of careers in these fields, and they will meet female role models.

Older girls will visit college campuses and meet with students and professors in these fields.

"Go Girl" participants benefit from tutoring and mentoring, including programs using the internet, such as the "design your future program" started by Carol Bartz, the president of Autodesk Software Company.

American school girls are close to fifty percent of America's future workforce. If they turn away from careers in science, math, and technology, we will be short changing our employers and our young women.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in sending a new message to our girls in school—a message that says, "you go, girl" to a career in science, mathematics and technology.

WAGE AND LABOR RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE AMERICAN TERRITORIES

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak against the on-

going wage and labor rights violations in factories operating in some of our American territories, and I ask that my colleagues join me in creating reforms that will finally ensure that all workplaces that operate under the American flag do so in compliance with federal law. I have been involved for a number of years in an effort to reduce the well-documented exploitation of temporary foreign workers, particularly Asian women, in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (US/CNMI). In the past few months, I have been troubled to learn that the practice of exploiting temporary workers has now spread to American Samoa.

According to a recent Department of Labor investigation, the Daewoosa factory in the American Samoa employed 251 Vietnamese "guest workers"—more than 90 percent of them women—for nearly two years under conditions of indentured servitude. These workers took on a debt of up to \$8,000 dollars each in order to qualify for what they believed would be good jobs in America, but instead they were constantly paid less than the Samoan minimum wage of only \$2.60 per hour. Sometimes the workers of the Daewoosa factory were not paid at all. Many workers also faced verbal, physical and sexual abuse, including a severe beating that caused one young woman to lose an eye. As a result of these violations, Daewoosa owner Kil Soo Lee now faces charges of forced labor in federal court.

While I applaud the Federal Government for prosecuting this particular violator of labor laws, I believe we must take steps to ensure that these injustices never happen again. I urge my colleagues to read the following article from the Honolulu Star-Bulletin and consider whether they would ever tolerate such conditions and exploitation in their own districts. I also invite my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring legislation to bring all of the U.S. territories into compliance with the federal laws that protect workers throughout the United States.

[From the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, Mar. 31, 2001]

HAWAII SHOULD LEAD FIGHT TO END ABUSE OF WORKERS IN U.S. TERRITORIES

The issue: Allegations that Asian workers were forced to work at an American Samoan garment sweatshop under inhuman conditions have resulted in federal charges here.

Human rights and labor abuses uncovered on the Northern Marianas island of Saipan three years ago embarrassed U.S. garment manufacturers, resulting in lawsuits and federal legislation targeted for the islands north of Guam. Sweatshop conditions as bad if not worse in American Samoa have prompted criminal charges in federal court.

The two cases suggest that U.S. territories in the Pacific have been vulnerable to such abuses far more than had been assumed. Reform legislation that failed in the last Congress should be rejuvenated and broadened to include all U.S. possessions.

About 14,000 workers, mostly young women, from China, the Philippines, Bangladesh and Thailand were lured by promises of good wages to pay fees of up to \$10,000 to enter the labor force in the Northern Marianas. In 1998, federal lawsuits accused 32 contractors on Saipan of beatings, forced abortions and rat-infested quarters in essentially a prison environment surrounded by barbed-wire and armed guards.